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Amongst the numerous Canadian seats of learning, perhaps the most famous is what is affectionately spoken of by its old students as "the old University of the hill."

McGill is older than Sydney by nearly 40 years, and is a little larger, for nearly 1200 students get their training within its gates. But there are many points of resemblance between the two, especially in the manners and customs of its members. All its buildings are of the local grey stone, and most of them are very large and handsome. The smallest is also the oldest in years is the Arts Building, which is neither so large nor so beautiful as the one of which we are justly proud. The various science buildings quite eclipse it, and McGill students admit that it is time to replace it. But there are venerable associations connected with it. Besides science and medical halls McGill possesses a Rhipid Museum and Library. The latter contains 160,000 volumes, and is a veritable paradise of book-lovers. The "stack," as it is called, is constructed on the plan of the modern library at the British Museum. Floor above floor is filled with bookshelves, about 6 ft high, with passage-ways in between lighted by electric lamps. At the wall ends some of these passages read out "reading bays." These bays are very comfortable, and the student can sit and read undisturbed by anything but the beauty of the view from the windows. There is besides a large general reading-room, and in its infancy the library the lover of books is free to browse at will in the "stack," while the hurried reader seeks ready oblation at the "reading bays." These bays are very comfortable, and the student can sit and read undisturbed by anything but the beauty of the view from the windows. There is besides a large general reading-room, and in its infancy the library the lover of books is free to browse at will in the "stack," while the hurried reader seeks ready oblation at the "reading bays." These bays are very comfortable, and the student can sit and read undisturbed by anything but the beauty of the view from the windows.

TASMANIAN TIN MINES. THEIR PRESENT AND FUTURE.

(BY "STANNIPEUR.")

Fifteen years ago it reported upon the standard deposits of the north-east coast of Tasmania for the press of the three leading States. In those days the lead was mostly held by small parties with limited capital, which simply enabled them to skim the rich surface washes. The price of the metal fell, and one by one they closed down, until the whole length of the Riemers River, the richest of all the large streams in Tasmania, was abandoned except by the Arba Company, which was then the only tin miner in the district. During the last two years new blood has been introduced to the industry from the mainland; capital from Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, and to a lesser extent, from Western Australia and Queensland, directed by the best engineers and experts in the tin recovery. It has been contributed to the amount of many thousands of pounds; the industry placed on a commercial basis, with the result that within the next to years more tin will be won on this coast than for the past 50 years. The reason for this assumption is that not only have more recent and economical methods for the recovery of the tin and the gold associated with it been placed on the ground, but the absolute value of the ground leased has been fully demonstrated by boring, a work never attempted in the old days.

Foremost amongst the new machinery is the bucket-dredge, and though in its infancy enough work has been done to prove beyond a doubt its success. With them work can be carried on all the year round without the slightest anxiety of a shortage of water.

THE MINES.

Commencing at the head of the Riemers River, which at this point has the Maurice River as its tributary, the head-reef of the Riemers mine starts, and is one of the great engineering feats on the coast. From here to the township of Brankholme—once famous for its tin—new South Wales, South Australia, and to a lesser extent, from Western Australia and Queensland, directed by the best engineers and experts in the tin recovery. It has been contributed to the amount of many thousands of pounds; the industry placed on a commercial basis, with the result that within the next to years more tin will be won on this coast than for the past 50 years. The reason for this assumption is that not only have more recent and economical methods for the recovery of the tin and the gold associated with it been placed on the ground, but the absolute value of the ground leased has been fully demonstrated by boring, a work never attempted in the old days.

POULTRY. REVIEW OF THE YEAR.

The year now about to close has been a very poor one for those engaged in the poultry industry—a result of high-priced food and low-priced products. The year opened with food prices slightly above the previous year, and the coastal drought caused a continued rise, until at one time maize, wheat, and pollard were 100 or more per cent. above the normal, and other food lines being also affected in favour of the seller. The poultry industry, which is in regular season from May, 70 to 100 per cent. below the year got as high as 16 1/2, while for maize the usual price of about 2s. ran up as high as 6s. but even the 4s. 6d. per bushel which has a long time obtained outside the region of a profitable food. Chickens, which is the most largely-used grain for poultry, although not affected to the same extent as other cereals, also fell high; while for miscellaneous grains, potatoes and other lines, which are usually fed to fowls, all came under the influence of the drought, to the disadvantage of the grower. The poultry industry, which is in regular season from May, 70 to 100 per cent. below the year got as high as 16 1/2, while for maize the usual price of about 2s. ran up as high as 6s. but even the 4s. 6d. per bushel which has a long time obtained outside the region of a profitable food. Chickens, which is the most largely-used grain for poultry, although not affected to the same extent as other cereals, also fell high; while for miscellaneous grains, potatoes and other lines, which are usually fed to fowls, all came under the influence of the drought, to the disadvantage of the grower.

RIFLE SHOOTING.

INVERELL, Friday.

The Inverell Rifle Club held its shooting on Boxing Day, when 30 members competed. The club, which was formed in 1885, has a long history of success in rifle shooting, and the members are well known for their skill and accuracy. The shooting was held on the Inverell Rifle Range, and the results were as follows:

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## METEOROLOGICAL REPORTS

Average rainfall for 48 years. Observatory, Friday

Average rainfall for 47 years, Jan. 1 to Nov. 30, 1940.  
Total from Jan. 1 to Dec. 29, 34.907.  
Temperatures.—Maximum, 71.7; minimum, 64.5 a.m., 65.7; at 3 p.m., 71.1; at 9 p.m., 70.2.  
Humidity.—At 9 a.m., 92; at 3 p.m., 88; at 9 p.m., 84.

**BAROMETER READINGS AT 9 A.M.**  
Carnarvon, 29.93; Geraldton, 29.97; Perth, 29.98; Esperance Bay, 29.95; Eucla, 29.93; Streaky Bay, 29.92.

Keneale, 3.02; Wilson, 3.03; Portland, 3.04;  
 3.05; Hulse's Promontory, 3.11;  
 Island, 3.04; New, 3.07; Newcastle,  
 Port Macquarie, 3.31; Clarendon, 3.16;  
 Sydney, 2 a.m., 3.17; 4 p.m., 3.11; 2  
 3.23.

**RAINFALL.**

New South Wales (for 21 hours ended at 11 a.m.)  
 Singara 69 points, Boral 6, Bunnara 133, Bunde  
 18, Blacksmith 20, Boggabilla 120, Boggaburra 100, 1  
 Day 185, Camden Haven 32, Casino 67, Camille  
 27, Coonah 37, Capricorn 43, Coonah 43,  
 32, Glen Innes 62, Griffith 77, Kinnaird 41  
 20, Katoomba 61, Kempsey 77, Kinnaird 41,

on 47, Lismore 90, Manilla 82, Moss Vale 5, Murrumbidgee  
Maitland 13, Manning Heads 35, Mullumbidgee 6,  
Victoria 12, Mongundi 34, Nambucca 66, Narrandera  
2, Narrogin 4, Newcastle 2, Nelson 10,  
Narragansett 18, Port Stephens 2, Parnassia 4,  
Parramatta 12, Raymond Terrace 7, Springwood 20, Seal Bay  
82, Scone 15, Sydney 2, Tabulam 50, Tamworth  
Farree 20, Tenterfield 54, Tweed Heads 63, Ulladulla  
Warren 6, Woolgoolga 10, Walcha 36, Warialda  
Yerremang 150.

Additional records reported at 2 p.m.—Armidale  
Joinsville, Newcastle 1, Rydney 7, Tamworth 14.

SYNOPSIS AT 9 A.M.

temperatures dropped generally; the weather turned cooler in western and southern districts, but under conditions, with light to heavy rains, were more coastal districts north of Sydney, and also the northern tableland and north-western slopes, occasional showers were registered, too, on the coast and north-western plains.

**Queensland.**—Generally fine and clear, except scattered coastal squalls.

**Victoria.**—Fine, clear, and warm to sultry in January to fog along the coast.

**Northern Territory.**—Unsettled and warm throughout.

[illegible]

Twined Heads, SE, light, showery, sea moderate, 10 knots.  
 Byron Bay, SE, light, cloudy, sea moderate, 10 knots.  
 Sydney, cloudy, smooth, sea moderate, 10 knots.  
 Newcastle, cloudy, smooth; Woolgoolga, N, light, fine, sea moderate; Bellinger Heads, NE, light, fine, sea moderate; Samuels Bay Heads, NE, moderate, fine, sea moderate.  
 Port Macquarie, WNW, fresh, cloudy, sea moderate.  
 Manning Heads, NE, fresh, fine, sea smooth.

1. *Alia*, NE, fresh, hot, sea smooth; Fuli Sea, NE, fresh, hot, sea smooth; Nansha, NE, moderate, sea smooth; Nansha, NE, moderate, sea smooth; Lake Marquarie Head, NE, moderate, sea smooth; Catherine Hill Bay, NE, moderate, sea smooth; Barrington, NE, moderate, heavy light; South Head, NE, light, cloudy, heavy light; Wollongong, NE, light, cloudy, sea smooth; Kiama, NE, light, cloudy, sea smooth; Crookneck, NE, light, cloudy, sea smooth; Jervis Bay, NE, light, misty, sea smooth; Port Phillip, NE, light, fine, misty; Moruya, NE, strong, heavy light; Eden, NE, fresh, misty, sea slight; Cape, NE, fresh, misty, sea slight; Gabo Island, NE, fresh, misty, sea slight.

**FORECAST.**  
New South Wales.—Warm, sultry, or muggy.  
S to NE winds; showery in the north-east.  
Fine line temporarily, but a change is apt to  
western districts north of the Lachlan in a  
or two.—H. A. Hunt.  
South Australia.—Warm to hot, cloudy, and  
variable winds, chiefly SE to NE winds; change  
in evening.  
Victoria.—Fine hot weather inland, light w  
S to N, on slight.—P. Barrach.  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—Light to moderate S to  
ASTRONOMICAL MEMORANDA FOR DECEMBER

**RAINFALLS IN QUEENSLAND.**  
The principal rainfalls for the 24 hours ended at 5 p.m. on Thursday were:—Northern: Georgetown, 0.5; Point, Gilbert River 32; Southern: Allora, 0.3; Dalby, 0.3; Broadmead 32; Boonah 50, Cambooya 32.

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 Wood 56, Spring Bluff 38, Stanthorpe 60, St. G.  
 25, Sunnybank 46, Surat 79, Tallibooka 30, Ta-  
 22, Tewantin 24, Texas 96, Tewinoolah 43, Wa-  
 56, Woolmeely 52, Warra 305, Yandilla 229, Ya-  
 330, Brisbane and suburbs 12 to 130.

**THIS DAY.**  
South Australia.—Overland, 9.30 p.m.  
Letters will be accepted without late fee for Express from 5.30 to 6 p.m., if posted at the G.P.O. in the Special Box, which will be open for the duration of the time stated.  
Victoria.—Overland, 9.30 p.m.  
Letters, provided they are posted in the Special Box at the G.P.O., which will be open for that time during the time stated hereafter, will be accepted without late fee from 5.30 to 6 p.m. for all places in Victoria, and from 6 to 6.45 p.m. for Melbourne and Queensland.—Overland, 9.30 p.m.

the fee for the Northern Exposure from 2.50 to 3.00 p.m. if posted at G.P.O. in the Special Box, will be open for that purpose during the time.

Byron Bay, -Cavanba, 8 a.m.

Thursday Island, Port Darwin, Sourabaya, Sumatra, Batavia, Singapore, and Dutch East India, Guthrie, 11

Wellington, etc., N.Z. (direct). -Warrimoo, moon. John Janetto, Monte Video, Buenos Ayres, and from Wellington, -Ionic, moon.

Brisbane-Peregrine, 1 p.m.

Richmond River, -Hamarrie, 1 p.m.

Nelson's Bay and Sea Gardens, -Hawke, 4 p.m.

Careena River—Kyogle, 8 p.m.  
Western Australia, via Adelaide and Albany.—Riv  
9.30 p.m.  
Tasmania, via Melbourne.—Launceston, 9.30 p.m.  
Katal and Capetown, via Melbourne.—Perth 9.30  
Federal Home and Northern Islands, New Hebr  
and Banks Group.—Malaita, 9.30 p.m.  
TUESDAY.  
Eden.—Eden, 9 a.m.  
Port Macquarie.—Wauchope, 11 a.m.  
Ardell (B.L.).—Tombi, 1 p.m.  
Mackay River.—Burragong, 1 p.m.  
Mackay Heads and Macksville.—Nerang, 4 p.m.

New Zealand, New Guinea, New Caledonia, New Hebrides, New  
South Wales, Norfolk Island, Northern Territory, Oceania, Pacific  
Islands, Philippines, Portugal, Rangoon, Reunion, Rhodesia,  
Romania, Russia, Siam, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka,  
Tasmania, Thailand, Timor, Tonga, Trinidad, Turkey, U.S.A.,  
Venezuela, Western Australia, Zanzibar.

R.M.S. Orontava (letters addressed to persons on board)  
—Overland to Adelaide, 5.30 p.m.  
Western Australia, via Adelaide.—R.M.S. Orontava  
p.m.  
Tasmania, via Melbourne.—Loongana, 5.30 p.m.  
Clarence River.—Kallatras, 8 p.m.  
Port Macquarie and Bellinger Heads.—Rosedale, 9  
p.m.

WEDNESDAY.  
Auckland, etc., N.Z. (direct). Manuka, noon.

Dunedin, etc. (N.Z.), via Melbourne—Winnera,  
p.m.  
Hobart, via Melbourne—Winnera, 5.30 p.m.  
Tasmania, via Melbourne—Flora, 7 p.m.  
THURSDAY  
Eden—Bega, noon.  
Launceston, via Eden—Wahatip, 9 a.m.  
Eden—Wahatip, 9 a.m.  
Hobart—Kaituma, 10 a.m.  
Ballina, Broadwater, and Wardell (R.R.),—Ct  
Grafton, 1 p.m.  
United Kingdom, Continent of Europe, India,  
Mauritius, via Adelaide—F.M.S. Nera, 5.30

**ANNIVERSARY DAY.**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir, I beg to make a few remarks

reference to keeping the above holiday on Friday instead of the following Monday.

This is a great nuisance, both to employers and employees. In the employers' case, it is a great inconvenience to them, as Friday and Saturday are generally their busiest days and in the employees' case, most of them will be without sufficient means to take themselves of a trip.

It is a shame that these mad-brained things are done by the Government, and I trust that the Government will be wiser in the future.

holiday. The Act says that "in the event a holiday falling at the end of the week, the same will be kept up on the following day." Is it so in this case. What is the use of keeping members of Parliament to these laws if they are to be broken by the Government? If an employer disobeys the law, he is liable to a fine. Why not Early Closing Act the Government at once ready to make him pay for it, a fine? I don't see why the public should be subjected to this inconvenience just for the benefit of the Government.

Colonial Secretary will remedy this for the  
act, and make the holiday for Monday, 1  
should be according to the Act, I am, etc.  
Dec. 30. Y. A.

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**FOR SALE.**

Continued from page 6.)

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